

REFERENCE TITLE: schools; AIMS test; additional subjects

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-ninth Legislature
First Regular Session
2009

HB 2559

Introduced by
Representatives Ash: Hendrix, Stevens

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-741, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO PUPIL ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 15-741, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-741. Assessment of pupils

5 A. The state board of education shall:

6 1. Adopt rules for purposes of this article pursuant to title 41,
7 chapter 6.

8 2. Adopt and implement an Arizona instrument to measure standards test
9 to measure pupil achievement of the state board adopted academic standards in
10 reading, writing and mathematics in at least four grades designated by the
11 board. The board shall determine the manner of implementation. **IF MONIES**
ARE APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PURPOSE, the board ~~may~~ SHALL administer assessments
of the academic standards in social studies ~~and science~~ IN GRADES THREE, SIX
AND SEVEN AND IN HIGH SCHOOL IN AMERICAN HISTORY, WORLD HISTORY, ECONOMICS
AND GOVERNMENT COURSES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. IF MONIES
ARE APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER ASSESSMENTS OF
THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN SCIENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL IN PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY,
BIOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCE. IF MONIES ARE APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE
BOARD SHALL ADMINISTER ASSESSMENTS OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN FINE ARTS IN
HIGH SCHOOL AS DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT. Prior to the administration of
the tests to pupils and following the statewide piloting of the tests, the
board shall approve, at a public meeting, the Arizona instrument to measure
standards test.

12 3. Adopt and implement a statewide nationally standardized
13 norm-referenced achievement test in reading, language arts and mathematics,
14 except that the superintendent of public instruction may determine additional
15 grade levels for which pupils are tested. The tests shall be consistent with
16 the state standards and shall be administered during the spring of each year
17 between March 15 and May 1.

18 4. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this section are uniform
19 throughout the state.

20 5. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this section are able to be
21 scored in an objective manner and that the tests are not intended to advocate
22 any sectarian, partisan or denominational viewpoint.

23 6. Ensure that the results of the nationally standardized
24 norm-referenced achievement tests established as provided in this article are
25 comparable to associated grade equivalents, percentiles and stanines derived
26 from a multistate sample.

27 7. Include within its budget all costs pertaining to the tests
28 prescribed in this article. If sufficient monies are appropriated, the state
29 board may provide norm-referenced achievement test services to school
30 districts which request assistance in testing pupils in grades additional to
31 those required by this section.

1 8. Use subtests of the statewide nationally standardized
2 norm-referenced achievement test as designated by the state board to assess
3 pupils in reading, language arts and mathematics, at a level appropriate for
4 their grade level.

5 9. Survey teachers, principals and superintendents on achievement
6 related nontest indicators, including information on graduation rates by
7 ethnicity and dropout rates by ethnicity for each grade level. Before the
8 survey, the state board of education shall approve at a public meeting the
9 nontest indicators on which data will be collected. In conducting the survey
10 and collecting data, the state board of education shall not violate the
11 provisions of the family educational rights and privacy act (P.L. 93-380), as
12 amended, nor disclose personally identifiable information.

13 10. Establish a fair and consistent method and standard by which
14 norm-referenced test scores from schools in a district may be evaluated
15 taking into consideration demographic data. The board shall establish
16 intervention strategies to assist schools with scores below the acceptable
17 standard. The board shall annually review district and school scores and
18 shall offer assistance to school districts in analyzing data and implementing
19 intervention strategies. The board shall use the adopted norm-referenced
20 test and methods of data evaluation for a period of at least ten years.

21 11. Participate in other assessments that provide national comparisons
22 as needed.

23 B. The standardized norm-referenced achievement tests adopted by the
24 state board as provided in subsection A shall be given annually. The tests
25 shall be administered over a one week period between March 15 and May 1.
26 Nontest indicator data and other information shall be collected at the same
27 time as the collection of standardized norm-referenced achievement test data.

28 C. Local school district governing boards shall:

29 1. Administer the tests prescribed in subsection A.

30 2. Survey teachers, principals and superintendents on achievement
31 related nontest indicator data as required by the state board, including
32 information related to district graduation and dropout rates. In conducting
33 the survey and collecting data, the governing board shall not violate the
34 provisions of the family educational rights and privacy act (P.L. 93-380), as
35 amended, nor disclose personally identifiable information.

36 D. A test for penmanship shall not be required pursuant to this
37 article.